

March 7, 1973

(Start of Belt #3)

concrete highways. They are interested in contracts. This Resolution is geared to go where the people have a special interest, and I see nothing wrong with that other than the fact that I want it recognized by this Legislature that they do have a special interest. Just like I have a special interest in favor of the city of Omaha when I am on this floor today on this problem.

SPEAKER: The chair next recognizes Senator Nore, then Carpenter, Stahmer, Anderson, and Stull.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President, I would like to ask Senator Hasebroock a question if he would yield?

SPEAKER: Senator Kremer, will you yield to a question? Excuse me. I'm sorry. I didn't hear that. Senator Hasebroock. I'm sorry. Senator Hasebroock, would you yield?

SENATOR NORE: Will this bring more federal funds to the state almost immediately if they change this policy.

SENATOR HASEBROOCK: Well, the thing is, this money is there but it's been impounded. What they are trying to do by going down there is to get some of this money released so that they can use it for road building.

SENATOR NORE: Well, last fall, the state of Nebraska was offered \$52,000,000 for the construction of roads and we had to turn it down because the design and planning shelf was empty. Now this is no fault of our present state engineer. It goes back to the Nuerenberger regime and the reason the shelf was bare on design and planning was that we issued \$30,000,000 worth of bonds, went into debt and paid 7% interest, now we have no plans, and these plans, the gestation period is about...well, it's about eight years from the time you start planning until you get a road. So, we couldn't use the money now if we did have it.

SENATOR HASEBROOCK: Oh, yes we could. Yes we could.

SPEAKER: The chair next recognizes Senator Carpenter. We are still speaking on, actually, the Syas amendment here which is....

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, I rise to oppose it for the reason that I know, at least I've been told by the highly commissioned, by the State Highway Department, that they don't have enough money to really do anything. They indicated the other day that they are now matching all the federal funds that are available and whatever roads they build above that have to be built out of a hundred percent of state highway funds. Now I realize that Senator Syas has a problem in the city of Omaha which doesn't wash over the out state, and I'm just selfish enough to not be able to have less roads in my area in order to give him an opportunity to have mass transit in Omaha. That's a different problem, and I'm sorry to say that former Governor Crosby is not a friend of mine and I don't speak of this because of his opinion on this or anything else. But I don't think we people outside of Omaha want at this particular time to route (?) this Resolution in order to bring about a diversion of large sums of money that has been raised originally for highway purposes and particularly in view of the fact that the state is now stretched hard for money. The other think that is going on, we are now assuming in Omaha, basically, and Douglas County the maintenance of the interstate as it would also apply outstate, and that's becoming an astronomical sum. We, also, have the increased cost of buildings of highways, the increased cost of maintenance, and these are things I think we ought to adopt this Resolution as it is and we all have a reason for our positions.